(e) if so, to what extent Government has achieved that?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL POLICY AND PROMOTION, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI ASHWANI KUMAR): (a) and (c) The average all India retail price of cement has decreased from Rs.237 per bag in April, 2008 to Rs.234 per bag in January, 2009. The production of cement has increased by 7.38% during the period April, 2008-January, 2009 as compared to April, 2007-January, 2008.

(b) and (d) No Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

Tea export centres

†258. SHRI SAMAN PATHAK: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the number of export centres established by Government in the country particularly in West Bengal for exporting tea;

(b) the quantity of tea exported from tea export centres situated in West Bengal during the last three years and in the current year alongwith the number of such tea centres; and

(c) the amount of profit earned by the Government from these tea export centres?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) to (c) Tea is exported through Sea ports, Land ports and Air ports from India. The Ports in the state of West Bengal are (i) Kolkata (Sea), (ii) Kolkata (Air), (iii) Haldia (Sea), (iv) Petrapole (Land), and (v) Panitanki (Land).

The details of tea exported from the State of West Bengal from different ports are as follows:-

Name of the Ports	2005-06 Qty. (Th. Kgs.)	2006-07 Qty. (Th. Kgs.)	2007-08 Qty. (Th. Kgs.)	2008-09 (Apr.-Dec.) (E) Qty. (Th. Kgs.)
Kolkata (Sea)	48,526	59,302	68,301	42,351
Kolkata (Air)	75	28	17	11
Haldia (Sea)	13,241	5,358	7,062	9,697
Petrapole (Land)	—	5	—	—
Panitanki (Land)	2	—	—	—

(E) Estimated and subject to revision

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

Government does not earn the profit. It facilitates the exports to boost the exports. However, in the year 2008-09 (April-December), 145.09 million kgs of tea was exported earning a foreign exchange equivalent to Rs.1786.58 crores (estimated).

E-auction of tea

†259. SHRI SAMAN PATHAK: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that Tea Board has recently announced e-auction (auction through internet);

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the export of tea is likely to be enhanced; and

(d) whether existing auction centres will be affected from e-auction?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) and (b) The re-designed E-auction system for tea has been inaugurated at the following centers:-

Auction Centres	Inauguration date
Kolkata tea auction centre	19.11.2008
Guwahati tea auction centre	08.12.2008
Siliguri tea auction centre	13.12.2008
Coimbatore tea auction centre	20.12.2008
Cochin tea auction Centre	20.12.2008
Coonoor tea auction centre	21.12.2008

(c) The re-designed e-auction system will reduce transaction time and cost which in turn may increase exports.

(d) The re-designed E-auction system will replace the existing manual tea auction system.

FDI in aviation sector

260. SHRI DHARAM PAL SABHARWAL: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Foreign Investment Promotion Board (FIPB) is considering a proposal to raise FDI in aviation sector;

(b) if so, what are the reasons for considering such a proposal in view of 26/11 Mumbai terror attack;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.